

MONROE PARK WORKSHOP #2

SUMMARY REPORT

April 25, 2005

On April 25th, 2005, 7 neighbors of Monroe Park attended the 2nd workshop to discuss proposed revisions to the park design. The meeting was advertised in the public meeting calendar in the Register Guard, and approximately 50 postcards were mailed to individuals who are on an interested parties list or attended the first workshop.

Background

The goals and objectives of the public process were stated as follows:

- ◆ *Goal:* Conduct an efficient, inclusive and open discussion regarding Monroe Park which helps direct near-term improvements and provides direction for the future.
 - Objective 1: Identify what aspects of the existing park design remain relevant, while updating and recording new trends in public opinion and expertise.
 - Objective 2: Identify short-term improvements which may contribute to alleviating behavioral and safety concerns expressed by park neighbors.

Proposed Revisions

Based on neighborhood input that the design of the park is currently appreciated, proposed revisions are minor in scope and do not alter the original design concept. The proposed revisions do make alterations to specific design elements to provide an updated and more serviceable park area. The revisions were represented in a handout and graphic diagram and were discussed in detail.

Phase One Revisions, to be completed this year:

- *Renovate Vegetation-* Broad support for the approach, no discussion.
- *Restroom Closure-* Broad support for the approach. Some concern expressed regarding inappropriate uses which used to take place inside the restroom, now taking place in the open. The situation will be monitored.
- *Renovate Play Area-* Generally supported with some reservations. Concerns about the loss of two swings and sand. Staff will try to incorporate a small sand area into the design given spacing and budget limitations. Additionally, future playground expansion could incorporate both sand and swing elements.
- *Accessible Picnic Table-* Broad support, no discussion.
- *Park Signs-* Broad support. Main entry sign to be placed at the corner of Monroe and Broadway.
- *Aesthetic/ Maintenance Improvements-* Broad support. Suggestion to paint restroom one neutral color. Keep benches at a consistent neutral color as well.

Phase Two Revisions, to be completed in the future:

- *Replace Wading Pool with Spray Play-* Broad support.
- *Remove Concrete from Trees-* Broad support. Some concern expressed about the Sweetgum trees located in the southeast corner of the paved area. Seedpods are messy and sharp in the playground. Given City practice not to remove healthy trees, the Sweetgum trees will remain. Removal of the wall around the cedar tree should

include replacing lost seating with a bench. Also consider a fixed picnic table in the area of the Sweetgum trees. No concern expressed regarding the removal of the basketball hoop closest to the playground, in the main circulation route.

- *Expand Playground-* Broad support.
- *Install Game Table-* Broad support.

Other Discussion Items:

It was noted that removal of the mound and accompanying sculpture was not included in the proposed revisions. While there was some support for this concept at the initial workshop, there was also an equal amount of desire to retain those elements. It was decided that such a major design change was not appropriate without a clear mandate from the neighborhood. It is acknowledged that the presence of the mound may remain as an ongoing issue, this discussion can be addressed again in the future.

Next Steps

Phase one revisions will be implemented over the summer of 2005. Phase two revisions will be implemented in the future as funding becomes available.